

Healthcare, Advocate

From: Beth Earley [eeme63@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 2:28 PM
To: maynark@statedems.ct.gov; LindaOrange@cga.ct.gov; harp@statedems.ct.gov;
john.geragosian@cga.ct.gov; Len.Fasano@cga.ct.gov; Elizabeth.Esty@cga.ct.gov
Cc: Healthcare, Advocate
Subject: Budget cuts and the Office of the Healthcare Advocate

I am writing in regard to the proposed elimination of the Office of the Healthcare Advocate. Why, when this agency is NOT FUNDED by the General Fund, rather funded through the Insurance Fund (essentially paid through insurance companies) would this office be a target for closure?

OHA is the only advocate for consumers and often the last resort when a consumer is up against a multi-million dollar insurance company. OHA's success rate is astounding. They help the consumer get the care they need, keep the state from spending MORE on Medicaid and assure the insurance companies are held responsible for their obligations to the consumers, their customers. I am in the healthcare field, and while I have never personally needed their assistance, it is reassuring to know they are there is the need ever arises. Also, I have heard from patients who have dealt with this agency with great success. Concentrating on the healing process and navigating your way through the healthcare system is enough for a person to deal with when they are ill.

in closing, let me reiterate my objections to consideration of the Office of Healthcare Advocate being closed. An agency such as OHA is an asset to the state, saving consumer time and money, as well as state funds, and should not be eliminated.

Elizabeth Earley, PA-C
31 Whiffle Tree Road
Wallingford, CT 06492